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EVIDENCE AFFORDED BY THE MICROSCOPE IN A CASE OF RAPE.

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[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

LAST November, I was called to see a child of Mr. H., a little girl about 5 years of age, on account of suspected violence against her person. After the occurrence, the child came into the house looking very pallid, and complained to her mother of being sick, whilst her clothing was observed to be disordered and stained with blood.

On examination, the inside of the thighs, and the legs of the drawers, were found to be much marked with blood, and evidently some attempt had been made to remove the blood on the thighs by wiping. The external parts of the child were bruised and tumefied. The hymen had lost its natural pale color, and appeared highly congested. Its aperture was about the size of a crow-quill. There was no appearance of laceration in it, or in the surrounding textures. There was also a constant dribbling of urine during our examination.

All her clothing, consisting of Canton flannel drawers, a faded yellow petticoat, and a light outside frock, I caused to be sent to my office. I transferred, also, the little particles of dirt, noticed about her privates, especially in the folds of the integument, to a piece of fresh white paper, and afterward sponged them with a clean rag, and removed the piece of the sheet which had been moistened by the escape of the urine; all of which I preserved for future inquiry. I then visited the privy, where it was supposed the outrage had been committed. There was about half an ounce of fluid blood on the stool of the privy, and on the floor was a piece of newspaper smeared with blood, which had evidently been used for the purpose of wiping.

My attention was afterward directed to an examination of the party suspected of the crime, and who had been arrested in the afternoon of the same day. He wore, at the time of his arrest, an outer red flannel shirt, considerably soiled, covering a bluish-

grey woollen shirt, which exhibited three or four small stains in front resembling blood; and a pair of drab-colored woollen pants with two or three small suspicious-looking spots along the opening in front. His clothing was also sent to my office for subsequent examination.

From the considerable amount of hæmorrhage that had been noticed at the privy, and from the absence of distinct laceration of the hymen of the child, I thought it quite probable that the external parts of the accused would exhibit tearing—perhaps of the frænum—to account for the large amount of blood lost; and which, had it existed, would have supplied important evidence of his guilt. This was not the case, however. His yard was perfectly clean, without trace of blood, and bearing no marks of laceration or other injury.

By a microscopical examination of the spots on his clothing already referred to, those on the red shirt, more marked about the wrists, were found to have been caused by blood, as also the smaller stains on the grey shirt; and blood globules were distinctly visible in the field of the microscope, where a selection had been made from one of the stains of the pants that bore indications of attempts having been made to remove it by scraping or otherwise.

On examination of the piece of sheet which the child had wet, an abundance of blood globules was found, mixed with the cell-growth characteristic of semen. The rag used to bathe the privates of the child exhibited the same appearances. The most important proofs were, however, detected in the microscopical examination of the particles of dirt that had been transferred to the piece of paper. In this was found, besides an abundance of blood globules and sperm cells, *fibres of wool mixed together, of distinct color, some of them being of a bright red, and others of a dirty indigo color, corresponding exactly with the wool fibres of the two shirts which the accused party wore at the time of his arrest.* The contrast of the colors was more marked with the reflected light of a candle, although perfectly distinct when observed by sunlight. After repeating these examinations, to remove every source of fallacy, the flannel petticoat of the child was examined, and its fibres preserved the characteristic color of the texture—a light yellow. This garment had lost its brightness of color by use.

The presence of sperm cells about the person of the child, clearly illustrated the cause of her injuries, and the detection of the wool-fibres from the same source was sufficient evidence to connect the party arrested with the commission of the crime. If the red fibres, or the indigo-colored fibres alone had been discovered, there might have been a wide margin for doubt; but the complete identification of the texture of both shirts afforded the strongest presumptive proof of the guilt of the prisoner, especially when taken in connection with the stains of blood detected on his clothing.

The large amount of blood which the child lost, without any ap-

parent laceration of the genital apparatus, is remarkable. It is clear to our mind that it came principally from the hymen by the force of pressure, and most probably as a hæmorrhagic exudation similar to what is known to occur with other textures of the human body. It is to be borne in mind that the child was found in a weak and fainting condition. Notwithstanding the external bruises, sufficient force had been applied to create incontinence of urine. We had, also, the presence of blood globules in the urine which washed her parts as it escaped from her, and an examination of the urethra by a probe failed to detect any injury to this canal. The insides of the thighs were stained with blood, and apart from the known vascularity of the hymen it was in a highly congested state at the period of our examination. There is no doubt that the hæmorrhage came from the child; and if from the child, in all probability from the hymen.

Otherwise, the principal testimony in the case rested with the child, and although given by a person of an age that would scarcely warrant its credibility, seems to be entitled to some authority from its consistency. Besides conducting the police to the privy where the outrage was perpetrated, she selected the prisoner, after his arrest, as the guilty party, from a number of others who had purposely dressed themselves similarly to deceive her; and the same identification took place in the court room during the trial, when the prisoner was presented in citizen's dress.

The remaining testimony was but meagre. For some days previously the prisoner had been observed playing with the child, who had received from him little presents of fruits, &c. No evidence existed to show that the prisoner had been seen in company with the child on the day this attempt at rape had been committed.

The defence asserted an alibi, which could not be sustained, and the jury found a verdict of guilty without leaving their seats.

## CONSULTATION WITH 'HOMŒOPATHISTS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

MESSRS. EDITORS,—I have hesitated as to offering you any remarks on the paper in your JOURNAL of the 29th ult., signed "Junior." I am averse to controversy, but I am encouraged by the tone of your correspondent. I have not any suspicion who he is, but think it probable that he is some one whom I know and respect. He is evidently a gentleman in his heart and soul, not merely in his dress and manners. He differs from me in opinion on the subject of consultation with homœopathists. I will make one more effort to make my opinions appear to be correct to him and to you.

I understand him to say that he would not condemn any one, and accordingly not a homœopathist, on account of a difference

from himself in opinions only. Let us keep this in view while discussing the question of consultation. I agree that in certain cases I would not consult with a homœopathist, but I say that there is a case, a rare case, in which I have consulted with such an one, and am ready to do it again.

Homœopathist is the name given to the followers, or disciples of Hahnemann; those who believe in the doctrine of *similia similibus*, and in the use of medicinal remedies in infinitesimal doses. Of these disciples, some, as I understand it, are strict in their adherence to the doctrines of their master; and others, who may be called the liberal party, depart more or less from the rules of Hahnemann. All these agree, I believe, in calling other physicians allopathists. We refuse that name for our party, and some of us assume the name of regular physicians. For shortness I will denominate those of our party the *regulars*. We object to the principles advanced by Hahnemann; we say that they are absurd; and we deny that they were deduced from faithful and careful observation. To give no other reason, we may say that Hahnemann brought forward, as the result of his experience, more propositions, respecting the effects of numerous medicinal substances, than could have been ascertained by a hundred men by the labors of their whole lives. We therefore disbelieve in what Hahnemann calls his experience. So far as "Junior" and I have to do with the subject, in reference to the point on which we differ, I may venture to say that the homœopathic doctrines are absurd. Neither you, Messrs. Editors, nor "Junior," will dispute this.

Now, I ask if these absurd doctrines necessarily imply dishonesty, or ignorance in those who maintain them? "Junior," if I understand him, objects to a consultation with homœopathists on the ground that they are ignorant, or dishonest, or both. I think that he will not say that the doctrines, or principles which they maintain prove them so. If he thinks them so, it must, I think, be on the ground of observation; that is, that he has found them so. Yet I can hardly think that he could trust so much to his experience in this matter, as to adopt the universal proposition that all homœopathists are ignorant, or dishonest, or both. Though I venture to write about the persons of this sect, I cannot call to mind more than ten to whom I have ever spoken a word, and I do not know enough of all these to pass judgment upon them; but I do know three, as to whom no one, who is acquainted with them, will hesitate to say that they are honest, decidedly honest. I will not say that any of those ten, whom I know, is particularly learned or scientific; but they are not all to be called ignorant, nor do I know that any one of them may be so called. And observe, that we might find out some among the regulars who are deficient in honesty, or learning, or both; yet I doubt if any of their brethren have ever refused to meet such in consultation. Unless it is maintained that a homœopathist is necessarily, in consequence of



his sectarian tenets, dishonest, or ignorant, I think that a refusal to consult with him on this ground cannot be maintained. Further, as to the matter of ignorance, let it be noted that I said in my first communication for your JOURNAL, that there were certain conditions, on which I deemed it right to consult with a homœopathist. One of these conditions was, that, if living in this Commonwealth, he should be a Fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society. Now it is known that every Fellow of that Society has received a certificate from some competent body that he has been so educated as to be qualified for the practice of medicine. That would seem to be a sufficient guarantee that he should not be disowned by his brethren on account of ignorance.

It is further objected to the homœopathists by "Junior," that they hoist a flag of their own, and declare themselves a distinct party in opposition to the regulars. Admit this; but remember that the language is figurative. When we say that they hoist a flag different from ours, we mean only that they avow opinions different from ours. But "Junior" does not argue that they should be condemned for their opinions. Will he say that they display their flag ostentatiously and assume a hostile attitude? This may be true as to some of them, but it does not follow that they all do it. I know that some of them do not do so; that they conduct themselves modestly, and like gentlemen. They simply avow their opinions when there is occasion for it. Is this wrong? What should they do? Should they keep their opinions secret, and practise upon them without avowing them? Surely this would not be regarded as an honest and honorable mode of conduct. Yet "Junior" says that in raising a peculiar flag, "he openly arrays himself in opposition to the regular profession. He claims to know more than they do." But, note what I have said above. Raising a peculiar flag, is, in plain language, declaring his opinions, although in so doing he differs from the majority of his brethren. Now, it has been said that he is not to be cast out from his brethren merely on account of his opinions. There may be cases in which I think it proper to take away blood, or to administer an emetic, or a cathartic, but in which many of my brethren think that brandy and opium should be prescribed; I am, then, an avowed antagonist to certain of my brethren; must we, therefore, refuse to meet each other in consultation? We may prefer to avoid meeting under such circumstances, but it would seem to me wrong for us to refuse to meet each other at all.

It is further objected to the homœopathists that they "condemn and deride" the regulars. Are the regulars more tender to them? Do they hesitate to condemn them in every form and manner?

I think, Messrs. Editors, that I cannot be understood as defending the doctrines of the homœopathists, or as justifying the conduct pursued by some of them. I maintain only that they are not to be condemned for their opinions, and that we are right to consult

with those, who behave like gentlemen, when we believe that we can serve the cause of humanity by so doing.

I believe that I have said enough; but there is an idea lying at the bottom of all "Junior's" views of the matter in question, that I ought perhaps to bring into view, so as to reply to it more distinctly than I have done. This is, that the homœopathists have assumed a hostile attitude toward the regulars, and that therefore we ought to consider them as enemies. I cannot agree to this. First, I do not think that we should regard all of them as entertaining hostile feelings, because some of them do so. It may be true that some of them have these feelings, but I am sure that all of them have not. We are not to presume that they have such feelings from anything contained in their creed. Secondly, if they do, all of them, entertain such feelings, we should be slow to follow their example. I am not absolutely a non-combatant; I would fight for my house and for my rights; but I love peace. I would not, then, quarrel with others for the feelings which are attributed to them. I would wait till the feelings were manifested by overt acts, and then I would inquire whether these were the acts of individuals, on their own account, or whether they were appointed by the whole sect to act for them. It is an inferior consideration, but I might say that it is bad policy to go to war with a sect. But the better consideration is that we should, if possible, live peaceably with all men. Keep cool and let reason have a fair chance, and truth will prevail. If all of *us* will do this, homœopathy will die out in another generation.

SENEX.

May 6th, 1858.

P. S.—There is one point in "Junior's" paper, to which I have not directly adverted. He thinks that a consultation by a regular with an irregular practitioner may be regarded by the public as a capitulation on the part of the former to the latter. Now I do not regard a Fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society as an irregular practitioner, because he is a homœopathist. But, setting that aside, it is obvious that this objection is founded on the idea of a hostility between the parties; a state in which I think they ought not to be. I will add that I wish to pay a proper respect to public opinion at all times; but it would be more than a *proper* respect to omit to do, what I have long regarded as right, in deference to that opinion. However, I do not apprehend that with the enlightened portion of the community the measure would be considered improper.

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#### OBITUARY.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

DIED, at his residence, Montpelier, Vt., March 15th, 1858, JAMES SPALDING, M.D.

Dr. Spalding was born in Sharon, in this State, March 20th, 1792.

His father, Deacon Reuben Spalding, was one of the early settlers in the State, whose life was not more remarkable for his toils, privation and energy, as a pioneer, in a new country, than for his unbending integrity and for the best qualities of the old New-England Puritanism. James was the third son of twelve children, all of whom reached maturity and were settled in life with families. At the age of 7 years he received a small wound in the knee-joint, which was succeeded by an acute inflammation and suppuration, confining him for more than six months, and attended with extreme suffering. During this sickness, Dr. Nathan Smith, of Hanover, was called; the knee had been opened at several different points, but still there was no improvement. This eminent surgeon discovered matter deeply seated in the ham, and made a free incision, after which the limb healed, leaving the knee partially ankylosed, to recover from which required years.

It was while confined that he entertained the idea of becoming a physician and surgeon, probably in consequence of his high estimation of Dr. Smith, which was retained through life. Hence he received from his companions the title of Doctor, and retained it, until by his scientific and literary attainments he became justly entitled to it. His early advantages were limited, having never attended a high school or academy, but still his love of study enabled him to obtain a good common school education, besides storing his mind with much general knowledge. Alone and without instruction, he had acquired that mental discipline which so highly distinguished him in after life. He commenced his medical studies at the age of 17, with Dr. Eber Carpenter, of Alstead, N. H., stipulating that the expenses of his education should be defrayed by his practising one year with the doctor after he had graduated. He applied himself with uncommon assiduity to his medical studies, taking, at the same time, private lessons in Greek and Latin. At the age of 20 he graduated at the Dartmouth Medical Institution, having heard the lectures from those celebrated teachers, Smith and Perkins.

It may not be improper to remark, that while a student his opportunities for practice were very extensive. It was then that the *spotted fever* prevailed so generally throughout New England. This epidemic was truly appalling in Alstead and the neighboring towns. Dr. S. had an opportunity of studying the disease under all its varied aspects, and brought his discriminating mind to the subject, with all the candor and close observation of a veteran in the science, and arrived at the same conclusions as to its pathology and treatment as others who had the best opportunities for observation and stood the most eminent in the profession. His position was very embarrassing, being called the boy physician, having to meet men renowned in the profession, for whom he entertained an exalted opinion. Modesty would hardly permit him to differ from

them, yet he had so carefully studied this epidemic that in most cases his views and treatment were adopted.

After practising two years in Alstead with Dr. Carpenter, he commenced business in Claremont, but having friends in Montpelier, he was induced by their urgent solicitation to remove to that place. Though but a boy, he had seen much practice, and performed many surgical operations, and therefore it required but a short time for him to gain general confidence as a physician, and more especially as a surgeon, which he retained without abatement through life. His fixed purpose seemed to be improvement in his profession, having never engaged in any other business or sought any political preferment. Others may have done more, under other circumstances, yet by his example, integrity, industry, communications for the medical journals, and dissertations before the county and State medical societies, from time to time, it may with propriety be said he added something to the general stock of knowledge in his profession. As a surgeon, Dr. S. was successful above most others. The distinguishing trait of his mind was a sound judgment, based upon a careful and discriminating examination of all the evidence which gave to each individual case its peculiar characteristic. Being well informed in the books and the general principles of his profession, and having an extensive intercourse with his medical brethren, he was well prepared to impart to others the results of his extensive experience. With propriety it may be said he was an original thinker, as was not only manifested in his medical and surgical practice, but in other departments of science. Few men had occasion to change their opinions, when formed, so seldom as Dr. Spalding. Others might come to conclusions more readily, but, when his opinions were formed, the evidence upon which they were based was in his own mind; and for this reason he was much sought for in consultations. It was a maxim with him, that there should be no guess work in his profession, and more especially in surgery. In consultations, due respect was paid to the opinions of his professional brethren, but still he would suffer his judgment to be influenced only as the evidence in the case affected his own mind, never evading responsibility and always governed by his own independent conclusions.

Dr. S. retained through life the confidence and respect of his professional brethren. From his commencement in practice until his death, he was much engaged in consultations. Though often differing from others, in his diagnosis and treatment of disease, yet he succeeded in leaving the confidence of patient and friends in the attending physician unabated, thus discharging his duty to his patients without injury to the feelings or reputation of any one. It was the settled maxim of his life that strict integrity was the true and only policy which should govern every man who desires his own interest or that of others, and therefore he never sought to appropriate to himself what justly belonged to them.

For more than forty years he was an active member of the Vermont State Medical Society, and through it he labored to advance the best interests of the profession he so much loved. He thus became acquainted with most of the distinguished physicians of the State, among whom he had many personal friends. In 1819 he was elected Secretary, which office he held for over twenty years. In 1842 he was appointed chairman of a committee to draft a petition to the Legislature for a geological survey of the State. He was elected Vice President in 1843, Treasurer in 1844, Chairman of the Committee on the History of the Society in 1845. He read a thesis in 1846, "On Nature as manifested in Disease and Health," which was very highly commended. He was elected President in 1846, 7 and 8, and delivered a dissertation on Typhus Fever in 1848, which was published by vote of the Society. He was elected Corresponding Secretary in 1850, and Librarian in 1854, which office he held until his death. He was also a member of the Board of Fellows of the Vermont Academy of Medicine, besides holding many offices in the State connected with science, literature, temperance, &c. But few men in the country have seen such an amount of disease and so carefully observed the peculiarities of the various epidemics occurring for nearly half a century, and it is to be regretted that so little is left on record of his extensive observations and experience, both as a physician and surgeon.

Not only as a professional man would we lament our departed friend, but as a Christian, father, citizen and philanthropist would we remember him. His life was that of the Good Samaritan, a life of toil, prayer and sympathy for others. His principles were deeply rooted in the heart, and his faith manifested by his works. We love to contemplate his character, and hope his mantle will fall on many who will as faithfully devote their lives to the best interests of their fellow beings, and as highly honor their adopted profession.

P.

*Haverhill, N. H., April 15th, 1858.*

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DIED, at the Massachusetts General Hospital, April 26th, 1858,  
EDWARD HOOKER.

The subject of this notice was born at South Hadley in 1835. After the usual preparatory schooling, he entered Williams College, from which he graduated in 1855. He then became a student of medicine, under the instruction of his uncle, Dr. Anson Hooker, of East Cambridge. He attended two courses of lectures at the Massachusetts Medical College, and in the spring of 1857 was a successful applicant for the place of house-pupil in the medical department of the Hospital. Entering upon his duties there on the 1st of May, he continued to perform them with zeal and ability until a fortnight before the close of the year, when he was

prostrated by the disease whose rapid and unrelenting course cut short his life.

For several weeks previous to his attack, Mr. Hooker was not perfectly well. He suffered from general debility and lassitude to such an extent that his friends advised him to give up his work to a substitute. This, however, he was naturally unwilling to do. Only a few weeks remained to his term of duty. Weary as he was, he could manage to sustain the labor and confinement till the 1st of May, and not leave his year's work incomplete. His associates, too, in whose company he had passed the year, would then be released; and it would be pleasanter for all to leave together. Then he could rest and regain his accustomed vigor. Actuated by this laudable ambition to finish what he had already carried so far, he resolved to continue at his work. This, however, he was not long permitted to do. Disease soon laid upon him a hand so heavy that he could no longer resist. On Friday evening, April 16th, he had the usual symptoms of a commencing fever; and on Saturday he was decidedly sick. He very early expressed a belief that his disease was typhus, and his opinion was sadly confirmed. The progress of the disease was rapid, and the aspect of the case grave from the first. The characteristic eruption of typhus was largely manifested. The cerebral symptoms were early and severe. During the latter half of his illness delirium was almost constant—for a short time violent, but soon becoming low and restless. He took nourishment and stimulants freely, but without apparent effect on the march of the disease. He died on Monday night or Tuesday morning, ten days after the commencement of the fever.

Thus abruptly ended a life full of hope and promise. Again is brought before us the sad lesson of the uncertainty of life—a lesson so often taught, yet so seldom learned; so familiar, and yet so awful. It is useless to speculate upon what might have been our friend's career, had he been allowed to remain with us. We know, however, that he had already shown qualities of mind and heart which won the respect of all who knew him. As a zealous student and a close observer, with means to command the best opportunities for medical study, and a mind prepared by previous training to improve them, and as a gentleman in his habits and manners, his prospects of professional usefulness and reputation were certainly good. But these prospects, with the hopes of loving friends, are forever blighted. Let us, however, in the midst of our regrets, find comfort in the thought that his end was good and honorable. Death found him at his post. Had his duties been less faithfully performed, he might still have been alive. To die with the harness on, has been the prayer of the best and greatest men. And so long as men retain their appreciation of what is good and noble, it will be accounted sweet to die in the discharge of duty.

In his intercourse with the patients and nurses of the Hospital, Mr. Hooker gained general respect and esteem. Throughout the house there were frequent and anxious inquiries for him, and expressions of the warmest sympathy and regard. One of his nurses attended him with untiring devotion, doing all that constant care could do to save his life and promote his comfort.

To the three colleagues, with whom he had been so intimately associated, his death is a sad infliction. Each day they are painfully reminded that their friend and fellow student, with whom they so long shared both their labors and their recreations, is taken away forever. Their memories of the past year must ever be full of sadness.

His mother arrived at his bedside a few hours before he died. Though extremely feeble, it is thought he recognized her. None but the widowed mother, who has lost her only son, can tell the force of such a blow. May she receive higher consolations than man can offer!

R.

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### Correspondence.

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#### THE PROFESSION IN NEW YORK—IMPRESSIONS OF A VISITOR.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THE high reputation the great and growing city of New York has so long held for its *commercial* character and advantages, for a time made our countrymen overlook its prominent facilities for the culture of the *arts and sciences*. It has seemed to be felt that the spirit of trade and traffic in the grosser materials of life was obnoxious to the patient, quiet, mental operations of the student of higher pursuits, and that the locality that had the advantages of the one could not foster the other. It has, consequently, been comparatively recently that New York has attained the relatively high position for *medical pursuits and instruction* it so justly merits.

The immense population of New York, its adjacent cities and tributary country, have furnished a practice and other professional prizes that have attracted a great amount of the best medical and surgical talent of the country, and now and then a brilliant gem from across the Atlantic. Amidst such men, facilities and inducements, it is not remarkable that an ambitious competition should have arisen, not only among the men and institutions of this, but between this and neighboring cities of less natural advantages, the result of which has been the development of the highest order of professional talents and acquisitions, and great perfection of its institutions.

Although this and the adjoining cities have doubled their population within a very few years, the medical men and institutions seem to have kept pace with the physical developments. The im-



mense army of *paupers* (sent, many of them, here, it is supposed, to rid their own country of their burden), which are provided for with paternal care and liberality, furnish an inexhaustible amount of clinical instruction and an abundant material for practical anatomy; advantages that can have no substitute, and of which no other city, this side of the Atlantic, can boast to nearly the same extent.

Another consideration that attracts the attention and admiration of the visitor, and that contributes not a little to the advancement of the profession in this *republican city*, is the *democratic* manner in which all places of honor and profit are distributed. No hereditary rights are here recognized; no man or clique has control of professional favors, but they are awarded to merit and capacity. No individual is too humble in condition to aspire to the highest prize, or to win it, provided God has given him the prerequisites for the *contest and the place*. The highest and lowest must run the race together, and the best mettle wins. The successful candidate generally carries with him the *credentials and guarantee* of his fitness from the hand of his benefactor.

It is also a pleasing spectacle to witness the professional generosity of each man toward his competitor. He acknowledges his merits or achievements. But the seeds of this virtue, I have suspected, might have come down from their predecessors, as they have an eminent example still lingering in their midst, who is perhaps the best living representative of the highest attributes of the profession—Dr. FRANCIS. Dr. F. has lived to the age of 80, or more (I think), in the most zealous devotion to the profession, which he still practises and regards with a religious love and veneration, retaining a mental and bodily vigor of a much earlier manhood. He is generally present at the meetings of the Academy of Medicine and other important professional occasions, where he is heard as an oracle. The vast amount of wisdom and knowledge acquired, by a long life of industry and careful observation, his intimate acquaintance with the past and present literature of the profession, his fresh recollection of the distinguished men and historical events relating to the profession for the last fifty years, both in this country and the old, where he sought instruction in his younger days, have furnished him with resources from which, with taste and discrimination, on all occasions he draws "at sight," spices his subject with wit and humor, and delivers it with an eloquence and youthful vivacity that never fails of success with his auditors.

Dr. MOTT, although hale and vigorous for a man of his age, with an unabated interest and love for the profession, has been admonished to withdraw from its more laborious duties. As Emeritus Professor of Surgery in the University, he lectures two or three times a week upon select surgical subjects, and is much consulted by his professional brethren and by patients (often from abroad), who

seek his advice. Apparently satisfied with his successful career, and with his many brilliant achievements in modern surgery, his way will be soothed to retirement and to the end by the contemplation of a pleasing retrospect.

Dr. STEVENS, so long the distinguished professor of Surgery, and of late Emeritus Professor and President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, now mostly retired from active duties, occasionally appears among his brethren to testify to the benefits and blessings of the profession, and exhort the younger members to diligence and faithfulness. The admonitions of such men, grown old, good and great in the profession, uttered while retiring from all worldly ambition, and adjusting their mantles for a higher life, come to us with a sanctity that makes us feel that the profession affords facilities for moral no less than intellectual culture.

*College of Physicians and Surgeons.*—It must have been a nice discrimination that filled the different professorships of this institution. You would not often find the man that would venture to suggest an improvement. Such a condition of things is not often to be met with. Prof. PARKER, of the chair of surgery, although in the prime of life, has been Professor of Anatomy or Surgery for some thirty years, ever since he graduated, and, for the last sixteen or eighteen years, of surgery in this institution. If not born a surgeon and lecturer, Nature certainly endowed him with the choicest elements for success in this high pursuit. No man of the profession in this country probably occupies a more enviable position, or has a more desirable and extensive surgical practice. He is a man of great modesty and professional generosity. His intimate acquaintance with his subject, faith and interest in its truths, fine voice and presence, and lively imagination, constitute him an eloquent and impressive lecturer. Prof. WATTS, of General and Surgical Anatomy, probably has no superior. It is worth a journey to New York to hear his course on surgical anatomy. The most complicated and obscure regions are made all daylight. I should have great confidence in him, as an operator.

Probably a more full and perfect course of instruction in Physiology is here given than in any other institution in this country. Prof. DALTON devotes his whole course to this interesting branch. He demonstrates the structure and changes of such tissues as are necessary to his subject by microscopical illustrations, and illustrates questionable positions by vivisections on the lower animals. Prof. D. is master of his subject, a fine speaker, and makes his hearers feel most forcibly the intimate and important relations of physiology to every other branch of medicine. Prof. D. is a young man; but if a good beginning, capacity, industry and high opportunities are any guarantee, it requires not a prophetic vision to see before him a brilliant future.

Prof. CLARK, of Theory and Practice, is considered by the profession as a profound physician, and is a very forcible and pleasing

lecturer. As a councillor in cases of difficult diagnosis and management he is regarded as the end of the law. Prof. C. advocates, and has introduced into practice, to some extent, the administration of opium to intense narcotism, in peritonitis and other forms of inflammation; in severe cases nearly or quite suspending the animal functions, and depressing the system as far as is compatible with life. The subject is eliciting considerable interest and discussion, has found some strong and able advocates, and is now before the Academy of Medicine. Dr. C. maintains the affirmative. I have long been of the opinion that our therapeutic agents have been directed too exclusively to the vascular system, instead of the nervous, in acute inflammation. The nervous, doubtless, has the earliest and most efficient agency in inducing and perpetuating inflammation; if so, is it not a legitimate conclusion that in its treatment we should direct our first and special attention to this system? If this be so, the abnormal condition of the vascular system becomes, both in pathology and treatment, a secondary consideration; a view that would save us from that excessive depletion and consequent suffering which has been so long practised, and often with very unsatisfactory results, as relates to both the primitive disease and the sequel. I presume no therapeutical agent has undergone a greater change in the estimation of the profession during the last twenty-five years, than *opium*, and particularly its efficacy in controlling inflammation, and in preventing or controlling the constitutional and local effects of traumatic injuries. Formerly, this remedy was regarded as incompatible, or contra-indicated, from apprehensions of its stimulating effects when there was febrile or inflammatory action to any considerable degree; and when prescribed, it was more with reference to its palliative than its curative power. More recently it has become our great reliance in many of the most severe forms of inflammation, particularly of the serous and fibrous tissues, but no one, I think, has before ventured to prescribe it to the extent advised by Prof. Clark, or to the extent necessary to procure its greatest benefits. In Vol. XLV., page 532, of your JOURNAL, is an article I had occasion to send your predecessor in January, 1852, with reference to this subject.

But to return from my digression. Profs. SMITH and GILMAN, so long distinguished for their high attainments, are still professors in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and are among the men that grow brighter and better with age. Everybody says Prof. St. JOHN is a learned chemist and a pleasing lecturer.

*The Medical University.*—No man is more highly esteemed as a surgeon, and for his pre-eminent moral qualities, than Prof. POST. Profs. PAINE, DRAPER, METCALF, and BEDFORD, are still holding their reputations and positions in this institution, and as practitioners in their several departments. Prof. VAN BUREN, although a young man, has distinguished himself by his achievements in sur-

gery. These constitute an able and energetic faculty, which draws together a large class from year to year.

*New York Medical College.*—This is a young institution, but is making its way into the ranks of the older colleges of the country. Our Prof. PEASLEE, of this school, is considered a man of high attainments, and is much respected by the profession; as an evidence of which, although comparatively a stranger, he was recently elected President of the Pathological Society, a body comprising a large portion of the *cream* of the profession of the city, without distinction of party or institutions. This Society, by the way, must be eminently calculated to advance the interests of the profession, not only by harmonizing all its different elements, but by bringing before its members the most efficient means of instruction. It meets once in two weeks, when from ten to twenty morbid specimens, or as many as present themselves to the members during the interval, are presented to the Society by members who are prepared to give a minute and scientific history and treatment of the case, and what is known of its pathology. When a question arises pertaining to the pathology or treatment of any specimen, it elicits an animated and instructive discussion.

Dr. BARKER, of this College, Prof. of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women, a native, I think, of Maine, and once professor at Brunswick, is gaining a high reputation as a lecturer and practitioner, and particularly as a clinical lecturer at the College and Bellevue Hospital. Prof. GREEN is still zealously advocating his peculiar views of the pathology and treatment of diseases of the throat and air passages, and in his extensive practice has unlimited opportunities of demonstrating the truth of his positions; yet, strange to say, there are physicians of intelligence in the city of New York who question the practicability of topical applications to the laryngeal cavity. But it appears to me that there is now too much testimony upon this question to leave it longer doubtful, and when we consider the salutary influence of topical applications, and particularly of nitrate of silver, to diseased mucous surfaces, and our inability to influence certain morbid conditions of this tissue below the epiglottis by other therapeutical means, the views of Dr. Green become of too much practical importance to be wilfully resisted or heedlessly neglected. Perhaps Dr. G. has ridden his hobby too fast and too exclusively, as men are wont to ride a favorite nag. Prof. CARNOCHAN, of Surgery, in this institution, who has something of the Napoleon organization and temperament, with great confidence in the power of his art, and individual enterprise, has acquired a high reputation by his brilliant achievements as an operator.

*Bellevue Hospital.*—This is a magnificent charity, that does credit not only to those who founded and sustain it, but to humanity. It has within a few years been separated from the general almshouse, and is appropriated to the accommodation of the sick

poor. It has been in a great measure re-constructed, and much enlarged, and forms a magnificent and extensive architectural pile, with every internal convenience and comfort for the sick, an ample theatre for clinical instruction, and is now the great school of the city for this purpose, with a medical board selected from the most distinguished physicians and surgeons. Foremost in this enterprise has been Dr. JAMES R. WOOD, one of the principal surgeons of the Hospital, who, by the way, is a remarkable man. With courage and enterprise superior to fortune, yielding nothing to circumstances, he has, against adverse winds and chilling prospects, made his way at an early age to the highest ranks of the profession as an operator, and has an extensive surgical practice. The clinical instructions of Drs. ELIOT and TAILOR on obstetrics and diseases of females, add much to the attractions of Bellevue.

*Dislocation of the Hip-Joint.*—The method of reducing this dislocation, originated and practised by Prof. NATHAN SMITH, of New Haven, some thirty-five years ago, and revived some few years since, I think by Dr. Read, of the State of New York, is now resorted to with great success in this city. I saw Prof. Parker, at Bellevue Hospital, with great facility reduce a case that had been some hours out, in a very athletic man, by the first manipulation of a circuitous sweep of the thigh over the abdomen, depressing at the same time its upper extremity, to disengage the head of the bone from the place of its lodgment. It is surprising that this simple and easy method should have been so long neglected, after once having been introduced to the profession; but it was not probably sufficiently practised to convince the profession of its general practicability.

*The New York Hospital* is, as usual, in its career of usefulness, and furnishes a great field for clinical observation, under the guidance of such men as the well known Drs. BUCK and WATSON.

The unexampled energy and enterprise that characterize New York, as a mercantile city, are also visible in her numerous medical charities. The Eye and Ear Infirmary; the many dispensaries; the provisions for the deaf and dumb, for the insane, the blind, the idiotic, the surgical diseases of women, and every other form of disease, both surgical and medical, with commodious and appropriate buildings, all, with scarcely an exception, accessible to the student or medical visitor, furnish evidence of a rare and active philanthropy, and an almost endless field for the medical observer.

Dr. DETMOLD, who seems to confine himself mostly to private practice, gives a surgical clinique once a week at the College of Physicians and Surgeons. He is one of the strong men and clear heads of the city. There is also a large number of young men, rising to fame, and the highest acquisitions (most of them now occupying honorable stations), who seem to form a reserved corps, and who will ere long do honor to the highest places in the profession. Among these, may be reckoned, Drs. Elliot, Stephen

Smith, Thomas, Agnew, Gouley, Finnell, Sands, Bumstead, Heywood and others.

For the benefit of many of the profession whom I know to be solicitous in regard to the worth and fate of Bennet's views upon Uterine Pathology, I will state that they are generally adopted in New York, and by those men who are giving their special attention to that class of diseases.

Yours respectfully,

Maine, April 27th, 1858.

J. C. B.

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## THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

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BOSTON, MAY 13, 1858.

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### AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE Annual Meeting of the American Medical Association began at Washington, May 4th; a large number of delegates were present, no less than forty being registered from Massachusetts. The session was held in the lecture-room of the Smithsonian Institute, and continued for three days. The first day was occupied with the necessary business, including the choice of officers for the ensuing year. The following gentlemen were elected: *President*—Dr. HARVEY LINDSLEY, of Washington, D. C.; *Vice Presidents*—Drs. Thomas O. Edwards of Iowa, William L. Sutton of Kentucky, Josiah Crosby of New Hampshire, and Douglas C. Warren of North Carolina; *Secretary*—Dr. A. J. Semmes of District of Columbia; *Treasurer*—Dr. Wistar of Pennsylvania. Dr. Reese, of New York, offered an apology for his conduct in recommending Dr. McClintock for the situation of physician-in-chief to the Blockley Hospital. He stated that he at the time, and still, regarded the act as right, but he would defer to the judgment of his friends, who regarded it as a great error. He would admit that he had erred, and apologized to the Association. Dr. Reese's statement was received with applause, and his apology was accepted by the Association. Dr. Bryan, of Philadelphia, also made a similar apology, which was accepted.

The next day, when this question was supposed to be quietly settled, it was opened afresh by a resolution offered by Dr. Atkinson, of Virginia, to the effect that no person be admitted as a delegate or member who has been expelled from any State or local association, until relieved by such association. The reason for this resolution was, that Dr. McClintock was waiting in the hall with his credentials as a delegate from Blockley Hospital. A spirited debate ensued, and the votes of the previous day, accepting the apologies of Drs. Reese and Bryan, were re-considered. Dr. Reese finally read a brief, unexplanatory apology, with an expression of regret for his violation of the Code of Ethics; Dr. Bryan consented to sign it, also, and the affair was at last settled. This discussion occupied the entire day.

The two essays which received the annual prizes were found to have been written by Dr. Austin Flint, of Buffalo, on the Clinical Study of the Heart's Sounds in Health and Disease, and by Dr. Montrose A. Patten, of St. Louis, on Color Blindness.

Among the reports which were read at the meeting was one on the "Treatment of the Results of Obstructed Labor," by Dr. SIMS, of New York; one on the "Treatment of Cataract," by Dr. STEPHENSON, of New York; one on "Spontaneous Umbilical Hemorrhage of the Newly Born," by Dr. J. FOSTER JENKINS, of Yonkers, N. Y.; one by Dr. BEMIS, of Kentucky, on the "Influence of Marriages of Consanguinity on Offspring," and one by Dr. CAMPBELL, of New York, on the "Nervous Concomitants of Febrile Diseases." Dr. PARKER, late of China, exhibited a large number of urinary calculi, which he had removed during his residence in that country, and the Association urged him to publish the results of his medical labors in China.

A committee of nine was appointed to wait upon Mr. Secretary Conn, and request him to restore Dr. BAILEY, of New York, to the office of Inspector of Drugs. This was at first unanimously approved, then re-considered, and passed by a small majority. Later in the day, Dr. TYLER, of Georgetown, protested against it, as likely to damage the Association by introducing a political element into it, and finally it was very properly voted to lay the whole thing on the table.

The Committee to whom Dr. J. R. Wood's Medical Education Report was referred, recommended that all the medical colleges entitled to a representation in this Association be invited to send delegates to Louisville, to meet on the Monday preceding the next annual meeting.

The Association voted to hold the next meeting at Louisville, Ky.

During the three days the Association was in session, the members were treated with the greatest hospitality by the inhabitants of Washington and by the members of the Government. On Tuesday evening the delegates were received by the President. Entertainments were also given by Drs. Taylor and Riley, of Georgetown, and Drs. Miller, Johnston, Garnet, Boyle and May, and by the Hon. Stephen A. Douglass. On Friday there was an excursion to Mount Vernon.

#### QUARANTINE AND SANITARY CONVENTION.

THE second annual meeting of the National Quarantine and Sanitary Convention took place at Baltimore on the 29th ult. The chief subjects of importance which were discussed were those of quarantine, of the internal hygiene of cities, and of vaccination, which were referred to committees to be reported on at the next annual meeting. Dr. JEWELL, of Philadelphia, from the Business Committee, presented the following resolution, which was referred to a committee of five:—

*Resolved*, That the following subjects be referred to a committee, to investigate and report upon the same at the next meeting of this Convention:—

1. A History of Quarantine.
2. Have quarantines secured the objects for which they were originally instituted? If not, the reasons of their failure.
3. What reforms are required to make quarantines more efficient and less burdensome?
4. Is a uniform system of quarantine laws feasible?

On motion of Alderman WIGHTMAN, of Boston, it was

*Resolved*, That — be a committee to report on the internal hygiene of cities, and present the same at the next meeting of the Convention, with particular regard to the following points:

1. A complete and efficient system of registration of births, marriages and deaths, with particular reference to cities, and the necessary connection of such a system with sanitary measures.
2. Upon the subject of disinfectants—their character, effects and benefits in connection with sanitary measures.
3. Upon the importance of an ample supply of water—an adequate sewerage and the proper disposal of the offal of cities.
4. Upon the importance and economy of sanitary measures to cities.

A motion was agreed upon to make the Committee consist of seven members, after which the preamble and resolution were adopted.



On motion of Dr. CLARK, of Boston, it was

*Resolved*, That the Committee be also instructed and authorized to report some detailed and specific plan for regulating the internal sanitary condition or hygiene of cities, which shall embrace all the subjects which may possibly come within the province of preventive medicine, and report the same to the next meeting of the Convention.

The following is a list of the officers who were elected for the ensuing year: *President*—Dr. Wm. M. Kemp, of Baltimore. *Vice Presidents*—Dr. John M. Moriarty, of Boston; George N. Eaton, Esq., of Baltimore; Dr. P. C. Gaillard, of Charleston, S. C. *Secretaries*—Charles H. Haswell, Esq., of New York; Dr. D. J. McKew, of Baltimore; Hon. F. F. Ferguson, of Norfolk.

The Convention adjourned on Saturday, May 1st, to meet in New York, in April, 1859.

*Bromide of Potassium in Spermatorrhœa.*—In a late number of the *Union Médicale* is an article by M. Alf. Binet, recommending the use of the bromide of potassium in spermatorrhœa as employed by Dr. Thielmann, a Russian physician. The sedative effect of this substance on the genital organs is well known, causing loss of virile power for several days after the medicine has been discontinued. M. Binet reports three observations of spermatorrhœa, in which the effect of the bromide was evident and rapid. The first patient had suffered for 17 years from spermatorrhœa. He had several emissions every night. After the first dose, the emissions were reduced to one, nightly; at the end of a week they ceased, to re-appear only once, and in a month the patient left the hospital well. The subject of the second observation had been affected several years. At the time the treatment was begun he had two, three and even five pollutions a night. An immediate improvement followed the administration of the medicine; after a fortnight the patient had but one emission every fourth day. In the third case, the patient had several pollutions every night; after using the remedy six weeks he was cured, and discontinued the medicine. In a month he had a relapse, but the treatment was resumed with the same success. No unpleasant effects were observed in either case, from the bromide, which was given in the dose of from 10 to 30 grains, in mucilage. A large number of observations are necessary to confirm the good effects of the bromide claimed by M. Binet, but the remedy is worth trying.

*Buffalo Medical Journal.*—Dr. Sanford B. Hunt, having retired from the practice of medicine, has resigned his connection with the *Buffalo Journal*, which will be conducted by Dr. Austin Flint, Jr.

*Health of the City.*—There is a striking agreement in the mortality of the last week, and the corresponding one for the two previous years, the deaths in 1856 having been 74, in 1857, 70, and in 1858, 74. In each week there were 15 deaths from consumption, and 4 from scarlatina.

*Books and Pamphlets Received.*—Graham's Elements of Inorganic Chemistry.—Bennett's Clinical Lectures on the Practice of Medicine.—Lectures on Mind and Matter, by Sir Benjamin Brodie.—Nature and Art in Disease, by Sir John Forbes.—Contributions to Operative Surgery and Surgical Pathology, by J. M. Carnochan, M. D.

*Deaths in Boston* for the week ending Saturday noon, May 8th, 74. Males, 33—Females, 41.—Accident, 5—Disease of the brain, 1—cancer, 1—cancer of the uterus, 1—consumption, 15—convulsions, 3—dropsy in the head, 6—drowned, 1—debility, 1—infantile diseases, 5—puerperal, 3—eczema, 1—erysipelas, 1—scarlet fever, 4—typhoid fever, 1—gravel, 1—disease of the heart, 2—intemperance, 1—inflammation of the lungs, 4—congestion of the lungs, 1—disease of the liver, 1—marasmus, 1—meneses, 3—old age, 1—palsy, 1—pleurisy, 1—teething, 3—throat, gangrene of, 1—thrush, 3—unknown, 1—whooping cough, 2. Under 5 years, 29—between 5 and 20 years, 6—between 20 and 40 years, 21—between 40 and 60 years, 4—above 60 years, 12. Born in the United States, 52—Ireland, 16—other places, 6.

*Dr. King's forthcoming Work on Quackery.*—At the annual meeting of the Bristol District Medical Society, held at Taunton, March 10th, 1858, the following preamble and resolution were unanimously adopted:

"Believing it to be the duty of all honorable medical associations and individuals to expose the errors and deceptions of empiricism, and diffuse among all classes such intelligence as will enable them to detect and expose quackery in all its forms, therefore,

"Resolved, That we highly approve of the plan of Dr. Dan King, in his work, which is soon to appear, under the title of "Quackery Unmasked," as calculated to diffuse that information which the public so much need. And we earnestly recommend to all medical associations and medical men to aid him in his praiseworthy undertaking.

CHARLES HOWE, Secretary.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science has ended its session, at Baltimore, and adjourned to meet in Springfield, Mass., on the first Wednesday in August, 1859. Prof. Stephen Alexander, of Princeton, the distinguished astronomer, is elected President for the ensuing year; Prof. Hitchcock, of Amherst, is Vice President.

Mr. E. B. Elliott read a paper before the Association on the "Confirmation, from data derived in the City of Providence, of a newly-determined law of mortality for early childhood."

The law may be stated thus: The number of persons dying under any age, within certain limits, in a given community, varies according to some constant power of the age—constant for the given community, but varying with different communities. In communities where this law prevails, the ratio of the numbers dying under any given age to the number dying under any given multiple of the age, within the limits, must be constant. In England, of those dying under any age not exceeding three years, about 7-10ths die under one half that age. For example, of those dying under the age of two years, about 7-10ths die before attaining the age of one year. Of those dying under one year, about 7-10ths are under the age of six months. In France the constant ratio is 8-10ths, instead of 7-10ths, as in England. In Belgium it is about 7 1-2 10ths. In Providence this ratio was about 6-10ths, ranging from 5 1-2 to 6 1-2 10ths.

*Maryland College of Pharmacy.*—The vacancy created in the chair of *Materia Medica* in this school, by the resignation of Prof. Charles Frick, M.D., who has been elected a member of the Faculty of the University of Maryland, was filled by the selection of Dr. Francis Donaldson, of Baltimore. Dr. D. is a practitioner of medicine who has already won an enviable reputation for his thorough acquaintance with the theory and practice of his profession, and his selection will prove eminently valuable to the college.

*Philadelphia College of Pharmacy.*—At the annual meeting of the College, held March 3d, thirty-one gentlemen, having complied with the requisitions for graduation, were declared Graduates in Pharmacy.

The Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane, will be held in the city of Quebec, C. E., to commence on the second Tuesday in June, at 10 o'clock, A.M.

*Appointment of Prof. Dickson.*—It affords us much pleasure to announce that, at a meeting of the Trustees of Jefferson Medical College, on the 27th ult., Dr. Samuel H. Dickson, of Charleston, S. C., was appointed as the successor to the lamented Mitchell in this institution. The high reputation of Dr. Dickson as an able lecturer, a finished writer, and an accomplished gentleman, are too well known to require any comment.—*North American Med.-Chir. Rev.*

A "Laudanum District."—It has always been understood that Holbeach is a great "laudanum district," and as might be expected the drug is sold in immense quantities, not only by our druggists, but by almost every little country shopkeeper and general dealer in the neighborhood; and that there are so few deaths known to be caused by its use is surprising. Judging from a single druggist's weekly return of retail sales, shown to us the other day, we think we are within the mark in estimating the amount of money spent by the working classes in this parish (though they are by no means the only consumers) in laudanum and opium at not less than £700 or £800 a year.—*Stamford (Eng.) Mercury.*